

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02338

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINR, FR, VS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS; ACQUISITION OF FRENCH
GOVERNMENT TRANSLATIONS OF SAIGON PRESS

REFS: (A) STATE 011378; (B) STATE 244145; (C) STATE
274664

1. ON RECEIPT OF REF B, EMBOFF RAISED IN LOW KEY APPROACH TO QUAI THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION BY USG OF COPIES OF THE TRANSLATIONS OF THE SAIGON PRESS WHICH WERE MADE BY THE REMNANT FRENCH MISSION IN SAIGON AND FORWARDED TO PARIS BY POUCH IN ONE COPY. LIMITED FACILITIES STILL DO NOT PERMIT TRANSPORT OF COPIES OF THE PUBLICATIONS THEMSELVES. SUBSEQUENTLY EMBOFF RECEIVED HIGH LEVEL ORAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT NOT TO PRESS THIS SUBJECT UNTIL QUESTION OF FRENCH PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS IN SVN HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND FORMAL PROCEDURES WORKED OUT WITH GOF. WITH THE VIETNAMESE MOVES TOWARD "REUNIFICATION" AND THE FRENCH MISSION TO HANOI TO DISCUSS WITH THE DRV RELATIONS WITH ALL OF VIETNAM, WE WERE INSTRUCTED (REF C) TO SUSPEND OUR REQUEST FOR FRENCH PROTECTION OF OUR INTERESTS IN SVN UNTIL THE IMPLICATIONS OF REUNIFICATION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY WASHINGTON.

2. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT REF. A REFLECTED A THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, EMBOFF RAISED AGAIN WITH QUAI POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING TRANSLATIONS OF SAIGON PRESS. QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTORATE AND PRESS
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SECTION SEE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THEY HAVE

ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS. THEY HAVE NO PRECEDENT FOR THIS SORT OF OPERATION IN THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL "PROTECTION OF INTERESTS" SITUATION. PRESS SECTION IS STILL STUDYING THE PROCEDURES AND COSTING FOR COPYING AND DELIVERING TO EMBASSY. SINCE OUR REQUEST COVERED ALL TRANSLATIONS SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON, WE BELIEVE THAT COSTS WILL BE FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL. WE SHALL REPORT WHEN QUAI GIVES ANY ESTIMATE, EVEN PROVISIONAL.

3. ALTHOUGH QUAI APPEARS TO BE WILLING TO MOVE AHEAD ON THIS AD HOC PROJECT WITHOUT TYING IT TO OVER-ALL QUESTION OF FRENCH ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF US IN VIETNAM, WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD GIVE US ITS LATEST THINKING ON QUESTION OF FRENCH PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS IN UNITED VIETNAM TO PROVIDE FUTURE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS AND OTHER PROGRAMS.
RUSH

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